

## AMENDED CLAIMS

[received by the International Bureau on 28 July 2005 (28.07.2005);  
original claim 23 amended; remaining claims unchanged (1 page)]

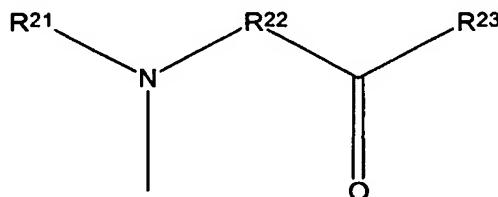
R<sup>20</sup> is a linker element selected from an active ester, an isothiocyanate, an acid chloride, an  $\alpha$ -halogenated ketone and an azide.

5 24. A dye compound as claimed in Claim 23, wherein at least one of R<sup>10</sup>, R<sup>11</sup>, R<sup>12</sup>, R<sup>13</sup>, R<sup>14</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> is alkyl.

25. A dye compound as claimed in Claim 24, wherein one or more pairs of groups R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>10</sup> and/or R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>11</sup> and/or R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> and/or R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>13</sup> and/or R<sup>8</sup> and R<sup>14</sup> and/or R<sup>9</sup> and R<sup>15</sup> is a bridging group consisting of alkylene, O-alkylene, S-alkylene or N-alkylene optionally substituted with one or more of SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, PO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, OH, O-alkyl, SH, S-alkyl, COOH, COO<sup>-</sup>, ester, amide, halogen, SO-alkyl, SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>NH-alkyl, SO<sub>2</sub>N-dialkyl, SO<sub>3</sub>-alkyl, CN, secondary amine or tertiary amine.

15 26. A dye compound as claimed in any one of Claims 23 to 25, wherein R<sup>20</sup> is a linker element having the structure:

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R<sup>21</sup> is H or alkyl or aryl optionally substituted with one or more of SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>, PO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>, OH, O-alkyl, SH, S-alkyl, COOH, COO<sup>-</sup>, ester, amide, halogen, SO-alkyl, SO<sub>2</sub>N-dialkyl, CN, secondary amine or tertiary amine and R<sup>22</sup> is alkylene, O-alkylene, S-alkylene or N-alkylene or R<sup>21</sup> and R<sup>22</sup> are part of a ring, optionally substituted with

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**Statement under A. 19(1) PCT**

In Claim 23, the possibility of R<sup>20</sup> being an amine has been deleted.